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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

7/IDS
2/8/02
C. McKinney

Application of: K. THOMAS, et al.

Application No.: 09/898,255

Group Art Unit:

Filed: July 3, 2001

Examiner:

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM OF SETTING AND/OR
CONTROLLING OF A FOOD PRODUCT
DISPENSING MACHINE USING A TAG-TYPE
COMMUNICATION DEVICE

Attorney Docket No.:
88265-4040

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, this opportunity is taken to bring the following U.S. patents and publications to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office:

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,280,159 issued January 18, 1994 to Schultz, et al.
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,285,041 issued February 8, 1994 to Wright
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,347,263 issued September 13, 1994 to Carroll, et al.
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,611,051 issued March 11, 1997 to Pirelli
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,715,555 issued February 10, 1998 to Reber et al.
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,785,181 issued July 28, 1998 to Quartararo, Jr.
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,818,021 issued October 6, 1998 to Szewczykowski
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,974,950 issued November 2, 1999 to King
9. U.S. Patent No. 6,047,579 issued April 11, 2000 to Schmitz
10. U.S. Patent No. 6,056,194 issued May 2, 2000 to Kolls
11. U.S. Patent No. 6,117,471 issued September 12, 2000 to King
12. PCT Patent Application No. WO 00/45331 published August 3, 2000

13. PCT Patent Application No. WO 01/12036 A2 published February 22, 2001

14. PCT Patent Application No. WO 01/17893 A2 published March 15, 2001.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that the documents cited herein are considered most pertinent, or that a search has been undertaken, or that any of the cited documents is indeed prior art. The Examiner is invited to undertake an independent search.

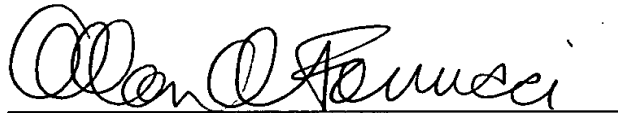
Pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), an Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office if filed before the mailing date of the first Official Action on the merits. Thereafter, an Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered if it is accompanied by the requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17. As this Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the receipt of a first Official Action on the merits, no fee is believed due. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to **Winston & Strawn** Deposit Account No. **501-814**.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and make of record the documents cited herein. Applicants further request that a copy of the Form PTO-1449, appropriately initialed by the Examiner, be returned to Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

8/13/01


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Enclosures